(e) the corrective measures taken by Government based on those results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) There is no specific Scheme to promote the exporting firms in the country. However, some assistance is provided under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme and Market Access Initiative (MAI) Scheme. Other Schemes for export promotion include Duty Neutralization schemes like DEPB, Advance Licence, duty concession Schemes like EPCG and Reward Schemes like Served from India, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Focus Market Scheme and Focus Product Scheme.

(b) Funds allocated under MDA and MAI Schemes during the last three years are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	MDA Scheme	MAI Scheme
2003-04	52.00	30.00
2004-05	55.00	5.00
2005-06	55.00	18.00

There is no State-wise allocation of funds under MDA and MAI Schmes. Other Schemes operate through issue of scrips/authorization and no cash payments are made.

(c) to (e) These Schemes are reviewed periodically and necessay corrective measures are taken.

Permanent commission to women in Army

194. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give permanent commission to women in the Army;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Army had conveyed their views regarding permanent commission to women to Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Women officers are granted permanent commission in the Medical, Nursing and Dental Services of the Defence Forces. They are not eligible for grant of permanent commission in other Arms and Services in the Indian Army. However, this matter is being examined by the Chiefs of Staff Committee.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Flaws in T90 tanks

195. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the army's fleet of Russian built T90 tanks, inducted to serve as India's main battle tank over three years ago have run into serious trouble;

(b) if so, whether the problem included critical flaws in its fire control system and continuing technical flaws are adversely impinging on the Indian army's operational preparedness;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up this issue with Russian authorities; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to improve the functioning of T90 tanks?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) There are no critical flaws in the fire control system of these tanks. However, as and when maintenance issues arise, they are addressed with the manufacturers.

Discrimination against women defence officers

196. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that active women defence officers in the Army do not get pension benefits and permanent commission;